

We Claim:

1. A fish tape assembly including a case adapted to receive a fish tape therein, a handle slidably mounted on the case, the handle having a top wall, a bottom wall, a first post and a second post which collectively define a passageway through the handle, the passageway being adapted to receive a fish tape and defining a longitudinal axis, the first post being disposed laterally of said axis in a first direction and the second post being disposed laterally of said axis in a second direction such that a fish tape extending through the passageway is bounded on both sides of the fish tape by one of the said posts.

2. The fish tape assembly of claim 1 further characterized in that the first and second posts are longitudinally spaced from one another to define an aperture therebetween.

3. The fish tape assembly of claim 1 wherein the case is formed by first and second case halves having facing outer annular walls that are spaced from one another to define a gap therebetween and wherein the handle further comprises an arcuate shoe, a grip attached to the shoe, a web attached to the shoe on the opposite side from the grip, the web extending through the gap to the interior of the case, and a belt attached to the web in the interior of the case.

4. The fish tape assembly of claim 3 wherein the passageway includes an opening in the shoe and an opening in the belt.

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5. The fish tape assembly of claim 3 wherein the grip comprises first and second legs joined by a central portion and the passageway is formed in one of said legs.

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6. A fish tape assembly having a case with a fish tape receiving chamber formed therein and a gap defined in the case, a handle slidably mounted on the case and having a passageway aligned with the gap such that a fish tape can extend through the gap and passageway, the passageway being defined by top and bottom walls formed in the handle and by first and second posts extending from one of said walls toward the other, the walls and posts being arranged to surround a fish tape in the passageway on all sides of the fish tape.

7. The fish tape assembly of claim 6 further characterized in that the first and second posts are spaced from one another to define an aperture therebetween.

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8. A fish tape assembly having a case with a fish tape receiving chamber formed therein and a gap defined in the case, a handle slidably mounted on the case and having a passageway aligned with the gap such that a fish tape can extend through the gap and passageway, the passageway including first and second channels, one of which is open toward a front side of the case and the other of which is open toward a rear side of the case.

9. The fish tape assembly of claim 8 further characterized in that the first and second channels overlap with one another to define an aperture which extends fully through the handle.

10. In a fish tape assembly of the type having a case with a fish tape receiving chamber formed therein and a gap defined in the case, a handle slidably mounted on the case and having a passageway aligned with the gap such that a fish tape can extend through the gap and passageway, a method of installing in the case a coiled fish tape having an end portion with an eyelet affixed to the end thereof, comprising the steps of:

forming a passageway through the handle, the passageway including first and second longitudinal channels, one of which opens to the front of the case and the other of which opens to the rear of the case, the channels overlapping one another to form an aperture having a transversely-extending axis;

threading the end portion of the fish tape and its eyelet through the aperture in a direction generally parallel to the aperture's axis; and

rotating the fish tape until the end portion of the fish tape is disposed in the first and second channels.